

SOCIAL ACTION NEWS-LETTER

No. 9, Vol. IX

Indianapolis, Indiana

October, 1945

World Temperance Sunday, October 28

World Temperance Sunday, the last Sunday in October, offers an excellent opportunity for pastors, Sunday school superintendents and teachers, adult classes, youth groups, and others, to stress the dangers of indulgence in alcoholic beverages. In another column of this issue will be found the latest available statistics relative to the consumption of alcohol since the repeal of prohibition. A list of recommended materials is also being supplied.

While figures for consumption of distilled spirits show a decrease of approximately 54,000,000 gallons in 1944, from the figures of 1942, due to the government ban on whiskey production, the total consumption of all alcoholic beverages, including beer and wines as well as distilled spirits, shows a slight increase. Consumption of beer increased 258,000,000 gallons in 1944; the per capita increase being nearly two and one-third gallons. The decrease in consumption of distilled spirits in 1943 and 1944 does not reflect a trend toward reduction of the use of hard liquor, but is the result of the shortage that caused people to form lines in front of liquor stores as whiskey became harder to get.

With the lifting of the ban on distilling we may expect to see supplies more available and consequently gross and per capita consumption greatly increased during the coming year. There is no use denying the fact that liquor manufacturers, especially brewers, have done everything possible to make service men and women users of alcoholic beverages. They have had powerful allies in the social pattern that makes drinking a normal part of army life and in the boredom which assails the service man or woman off duty. As demobilization proceeds we may expect to see the drink problem greatly intensified, especially during those weeks or months (perhaps years for some) in which they are seeking frantically to adjust themselves again to civilian life.

This is a problem that vitally concerns the church. Authorities of the Yale School of Alcohol Studies tell us that there are approximately 50,000,000 users of alcoholic beverages in the U. S., or about one-half the adult population. The same authorities say that from 1,500,000 to 2,000,000 are excessive users and that of these, between 600,000 and 1,000,000 must be classed as chronic addicts. Two-thirds of these addicts became such through a process of moderate drinking that became immoderate and compulsive drinking before the victim knew it.

The first place to attack the problem is through better home training. Drinking is a form of juvenilism; it reflects inability to meet the demands of life without a 'lift' or prop of some sort. The person who cannot meet difficult and unpleasant situations without a stiff drink tacitly admits thereby that he is inadequate to the requirements of his life. Drink does not fortify and intensify his powers, but rather blunts them so that he is less aware of difficult and unpleasant facts. Actually, it is his inadequacy that is intensified rather than his powers. The best antidote for the alcohol problem is confident, self-reliant personality. The petted, spoiled, unhappy, dependent child is often a candidate for alcohol addiction.

International Control of Atomic Bomb Urged

The executive committee of the Federal Council of Churches on September 18, released "A Statement on Control of the Atomic Bomb," in which international control of the use of atomic energy is urged. Declaring that the bombing of two cities "shocked the conscience of men" and "foreshadows the peril of the future," the statement said,

"Atomic bombs and rockets in the separate hands of competing states would tend to precipitate total war, because of the mutual fears of annihilating aggression. Consequently the establishment of a single world control of destructive atomic power is an urgent necessity. Unless it can be achieved in the short period while the United States alone possesses atomic bombs, it may be difficult or impossible to achieve. We urge our government to state now its intention to place the new discovery under a world-wide authority as soon as all states will submit to effective controls. We also urge the government to press without delay for the creation of such controls. . . . It is not our province to judge the technical requirements of international controls. We recognize the technical and political obstacles which stand in the way. But we also are convinced that all such obstacles can be overcome if governments and peoples are determined to establish the sovereignty of mankind over destructive atomic power for their mutual protection. In the hands of our government and people lies, in the first instance, the choice between world control or world catastrophe."

As urgent as these words are they do not overstate the danger. Scientists are saying off the record that other nations will certainly have the secret within three years, if not within the next twelve months. If we refuse to share our knowledge now they will refuse to share it when they have mastered the process and the whole world will once again be divided into mutually suspicious and mutually apprehensive groups. International control is our only hope. German scientists were so close to the discovery that Hitler's threats of a "secret weapon" were not idle boasts. Indeed, off-the-record statements of scientists indicate that had the Nazis realized the importance of eliminating impurities from U-235 (which are said to break the chain fission of atoms and thus prevent the explosion) they might have been the first to use it.

We have in our hands a weapon which, in the words of *Manchester Guardian*, "will either end war or end us all." War has now become so potentially dangerous that another conflict may make the whole world as desolate as Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

SOCIAL ACTION NEWS-LETTER

Published monthly, except for joint July-August issue, by the Department of Social Welfare, The United Christian Missionary Society, 222 South Downey Avenue, Indianapolis 7, Indiana.

Subscription price 50 cents per year; with Social Action magazine \$1.00 per year.

Entered as second class mail matter September 2, 1943, at Indianapolis, Indiana, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

The opinions and points of view expressed in this publication are those of the editor and do not necessarily represent the convictions of The United Christian Missionary Society.

We Regret

We try to make every issue of *Social Action News-Letter* a dependable source of information for our readers. We were especially hopeful that the September issue with its Review of the Labor Year would meet our own high demands. However, a typographical error made us refer to 60 "billion" jobs instead of 60 million as we intended. Also the article was too long and had to be cut in the absence of the writer. We shall aim to keep such errors at a minimum.

—EDITOR.

Conscientious Objector Fund Not Paid Up to Date

Through a misunderstanding of a publicity release some friends have written to ask if it is a fact that the Disciples of Christ have paid to the American Friends Service Committee, the Brethren Service Committee and the Mennonite Central Committee all charges incurred by them on behalf of our men in their camps and units. The inquiry arose out of a misunderstanding of publicity released by the department of social welfare and partly perhaps to hasty reading of headlines. The facts are that due to approximately \$5,000 of designated gifts received from the Week of Compassion offering and other gifts we were able to pay all costs up to June 30, 1945, as we then had a record of them. Since that date a difference of approximately \$500 has been discovered between our figures and those of the American Friends Service Committee which remain yet to be checked. With that possible exception we have paid all charges to June 30.

While we are more nearly paid up than at any time during the more than four years since Civilian Public Service was established, it should be remembered that costs continue from day to day and that by the time this is read we shall have another three months of unpaid charges. Throughout the more than four years of this program a relatively small group of friends and supporters of CPS, including the men in camps and their families, have continued to contribute to this fund with heartening regularity. How much longer it will be necessary to continue the program no one knows at the present time. However, with the present rush to demobilize men and women in the armed services it looks as if CPS might be liquidated within a few months. In the meantime, Disciples of Christ should continue their support in order that we may close this program with all obligations to the camp operating agencies fully met.

The following figures show the condition of the C. O. Fund on July 31, 1945:

(Continued on Page 4)

Whiskey Consumption Down; Total Consumption Up

Consumption of domestic spirits, including alcohol, showed a decrease of 54,000,000 gallons in 1944, over the high mark of 144,207,510 gallons in 1942, as shown by figures released by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, though the total consumption of all alcoholic beverages increased from the previous high figure of 2,376,306,455 gallons in 1943 (including beer and wine as well as spirits) to 2,565,182,566 gallons in 1944. Per capita consumption of wine decreased from .824 gallon in 1943 to .669 gallons in 1944. Per capita consumption of distilled spirits dropped from 1.08 gallons in 1942 to .682 gallons in 1944. Beer consumption jumped from 15.69 gallons per capita in 1942 to 17.999 gallons in 1944. Thus the increase in total consumption (188,876,000 gallons) noted for 1944 is wholly in beer.

The above figures are based on the total population of the U. S. as reported by the Census Bureau for the years indicated. A more accurate figure for per capita consumption is that based on the total population 15 years and over; since few people under 15 drink. On this basis the per capita consumption was: (in gallons)

Year	Wine	Beer	Spirits	Total
1940	.837	16.651	1.425	18.913
1941	.892	16.359	1.417	18.668
1942	1.035	18.712	1.430	21.177
1943	1.101	20.963	1.348	23.412
1944	.904	24.346	.923	26.173

The figures of the Bureau of Internal Revenue covering tax-paid withdrawals (for beverage purposes since only beverage alcohol takes the tax rate) in gallons (excluding armed forces overseas during the war years) are as follows:

Year	Wines	Beer	Spirits	Total
1933	1,801,647	205,093,706	6,118,326	213,013,879
1934	14,810,110	1,000,247,209	43,017,253	1,058,074,472
1935	35,680,325	1,309,093,761	82,457,336	1,427,251,424
1936	47,764,375	1,511,555,040	110,631,778	1,669,951,193
1937	62,430,597	1,717,150,760	136,859,616	1,916,440,973
1938	61,536,752	1,671,706,558	130,203,653	1,863,446,963
1939	67,693,276	1,606,323,094	126,689,310	1,799,705,680
1940	82,595,415	1,643,441,130	140,708,165	1,866,744,710
1941	89,315,540	1,636,774,611	141,769,536	1,867,859,687
1942	104,368,412	1,886,542,789	144,207,510	2,135,118,711
1943	111,740,450	2,127,729,454	136,836,551	2,376,306,455
1944	88,655,995	2,386,062,684	90,463,887	2,565,182,566

In analyzing the above figures it will be noted that there was a slight decrease in tax-paid withdrawals of wine in the year 1938, but otherwise there has been a constant and consistent increase in wine consumption up to 1944, when a decrease of 23 million gallons occurred. In the case of beers and malt liquors, after reaching a high point of 1,717,150,760 gallons in 1937, the years 1938, 1939, 1940 and 1941 showed a substantial decrease. In 1942 however the loss was picked up and the 1937 figure exceeded, with substantial gains in 1943 and 1944. The years 1938 and 1939 show a marked decrease in consumption of spirits (whiskey, rum, gin, etc.) over the previous high mark of 1937. This loss in consumption was made up and exceeded in 1940, and by 1942 had reached 144,207,510 gallons. The reductions in 1943 and 1944 can be accounted for by governmental restrictions on production of beverage alcohol. The figures cited earlier in this article covering apparent actual per capita consumption show that the use of alcoholic beverages, based on population 15 years old and over, has actually increased every year since 1940, though the increase has been almost wholly in beer consumption.

However, a figure regarded by all authorities as a fairer index to alcoholic beverage consumption is that of the absolute alcohol contained in these beverages,

(Continued on Page 4)

On Social Frontiers

The War Department and military commanders in the field have underwritten their faith in American citizens of Japanese ancestry by sending a group of these soldiers into Japan, according to the *Pacific Citizen*, official organ of the Japanese-American Citizens League. These soldiers, members of the Eleventh Airborne Division, landed in Atsugi airfield, near Tokyo, on August 31. Kazuo Kamoto, of Venice, Calif., an army interpreter, reported that the Japanese military personnel greeted him with surprise but no hostility.

* * *

That certain labor unions intend to tolerate no foolishness in the matter of racial discrimination is indicated in reports from Stockton, Calif., that two members of the CIO International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union were tried by the union and found guilty of inciting racial discrimination against a returning worker of Japanese ancestry. Under contracts with the union the employers must dismiss these workers.

* * *

In the September issue of Harper's Magazine, Eugene G. Rostow, professor of law at Yale University, labels the evacuation of more than 100,000 persons of Japanese ancestry from their homes on the Pacific Coast and their confinement in War Relocation Camps "our worst war-time mistake," and urges that the federal government is under an "inescapable obligation" not only to protect their civil rights but also to grant generous financial indemnity to them for their sufferings and losses sustained on account of the evacuation. Professor Rostow characterizes the Army's action as a threat to the rights of all men and says that in the perspective of our legal tradition the facts are almost incredible.

* * *

UNRRA reports that as of July 10, 1945, more than 150,000,000 pounds of clothing had been received in response to the United National Clothing Collection, of which more than 90,000,000 pounds had already been shipped or were ready for immediate shipment to Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Italy, Yugoslavia, Greece, the USSR, China and the Philippines. Allocations in response to requests as yet unmet total nearly 100,000,000 pounds. Clothing is being made available for export at the rate of 1,000,000 pounds per day.

* * *

The Airline Mechanics Assn., an independent union holding system-wide contracts with a number of major airlines, has voted by 75 percent of its membership to affiliate with the UAW-CIO, according to the *United Automobile Worker*. The union covers 25,000 airline mechanics and it is anticipated that the number will be increased to 150,000 within the next three years as airlines are returned to civilian control. The merger was submitted to the membership for ratification.

* * *

The Southern Conference on Human Welfare, after polling 251 white newspaper editors in 13 Southern states reports that an overwhelming majority do not approve recent expressions of racial prejudice in Congress and declare that such statements do not represent the South. Voted by 87½ percent that the remarks of Senators Bilbo and Eastland, both of Mississippi, that Negro soldiers have been "an utter and abysmal failure" do not represent the attitude of Southern editors toward Negroes in uniform.

New England Convention Holds Labor-Industry Forum

A feature of the 77th annual convention of the Disciples of Christ of New England, held at First Christian Church, Worcester, Mass., September 14-16, was a church-labor-industry forum on Friday night. Mr. Roy F. Cook, a manufacturer, of Orange, Mass., and a member of the speakers bureau of the National Association of Manufacturers, represented industry. Mr. Milton Murray, national president of the American Newspaper Guild and a reporter on the New York newspaper *PM*, spoke for labor, and James A. Crain, secretary of the department of Social Welfare of the UCMS, represented the church. Each speaker presented the issues in industry, labor, and religion from the point of view of his group. The meeting attracted a large attendance of delegates and citizens; a discussion period following the presentations brought out many questions pertinent to the problem of post-war readjustment in industry. Many present expressed the opinion that the church could render an effective service in creating better understanding by sponsoring such discussions.

LaGuardia Attacks Profits of Loan Companies

Declaring that any one who demands more than 6 percent interest on money is "not a businessman but a swine," New York's fiery Mayor La Guardia launched a bitter attack on small loan firms doing business in that metropolis in an address over the city's municipal radio station WNYC on Sunday night, September 16. Financial concerns dealing in small loans of from a few dollars to \$300 or more are not necessarily small concerns. Many of them are national chains with branch offices in the principal cities and have heavy capital structures.

Under New York laws lenders are permitted to charge 2½ percent per month interest on the first \$100 borrowed and 2 percent on the remainder up to \$300. La Guardia charged that under 1943 figures, the latest available from the state's banking department, New York State loan companies paid more than \$1,100,000 in dividends to holders of \$3,933,307 worth of common stock, representing a dividend rate of 28.5 percent. The state-wide dividend rate for the four preceding years, according to the Mayor, was 10.4 percent in 1942, 31 percent in 1941, 30.2 percent in 1940, and 24.2 percent in 1939. Singled out for particular mention, according to the *New York Times* report of the address, were two of the largest small loan holding companies—the Household Finance Corporation, and the Beneficial Industrial Loan Corporation, operating in New York as the Personal Finance Company. According to a report by Louis E. Yavner, Commissioner of Investigation, on which the Mayor's attack was based, the Personal Finance Company paid dividends of 65 percent on its common stock in 1943, and 35 percent in 1944. Dividends earned by the New York branches of Household Finance Corporation could not be obtained, but the report stated that the cash return on the company's national common stock was 20.8 percent in 1941, and approximately 16 percent the next three years. The Mayor also asserted that Household's president, B. E. Henderson of Chicago, received a salary of \$75,000 and a \$50,000 bonus in 1944, while \$250,000 was paid to the law firm of Hubacheck & Kelly, Hubacheck also being a director of the Household company.

Many business concerns, labor unions and other groups are avoiding the extortionate rates of loan
(Continued on Page 4)

Whiskey Consumption Down; Total Consumption Up

(Continued from Page 2)

since distilled spirits ordinarily do not contain more than 50 percent alcohol (100 proof) and most contain 45 percent or less, wines an average of 15 percent and beer 3.75 to 4 percent. On this basis absolute alcohol (100 percent) per capita consumption (15 years old and over) since 1940 shows the following: (in gallons)

Year	Wine	Beer	Spirits	Total
1940	126	.624	.713	1.463
1941	134	.613	.709	1.456
1942	155	.702	.715	1.572
1943	165	.786	.674	1.625
1944	136	.913	.461	1.510

It is necessary to keep in mind the fact that during the war years the increase in *total gallons* of alcohol consumed has been mostly in wines and beer, which contain a larger total number of gallons but of relatively low alcoholic content, whereas the above figures cover only the absolute alcohol contained in the beverages consumed. On this basis per capita consumption of absolute alcohol decreased .115 gallons (slightly more than 1/10th of a gallon) in 1944.

An added factor in the reduction is found in the fact that effective April 1, 1944, Congress raised the excise tax from \$6 per gallon on distilled spirits to \$9 per gallon; from \$7 per barrel (31 gallons) on beer to \$8 per barrel, and on wines from 5c and 10c per half-pint units to 10c and 15c, respectively.

Federal internal revenue from alcoholic beverages, exclusive of customs duties on imported liquors, are indicated by the following figures:

Year	Amount	Per Capita
1940	\$ 624,253,156.11	\$ 4.73
1941	820,056,178.33	6.16
1942	1,048,516,706.56	7.84
1943	1,423,646,456.44	10.49
1944	1,618,775,155.93	12.21

The break-down of the figures for 1944 show: Distilled spirits, \$1,014,282,924; wines, \$37,324,467, and beer, \$567,167,765. State and municipal revenues are not included in the figures quoted above.

None of the figures herein include imported liquors, since withdrawals of such imports for consumption and sale were not reported during the war. However the Bureau of Internal Revenue sold revenue stamps covering 9,760,232 gallons in 1942; 15,430,211 gallons in 1943, and in the fiscal year 1944 (ending June 30), 42,119,649 gallons. Sale of revenue stamps does not indicate that the beverages covered were withdrawn for consumption or sale, as the products may be held in storage for some time after purchase of stamps.

None of the facts contained in this article will solve the liquor problem. They will, however, aid the reader in understanding the magnitude of the business of the manufacture, distribution and sale of alcoholic beverages and the important part the federal government plays in it from the revenue standpoint.

Conscientious Objector Fund

(Continued from Page 2)

Total cash received	\$42,889.74
Paid to:	
Brethren Service Committee	\$21,535.92
American Friends Service Committee	13,284.13
Mennonite Central Committee	4,526.12
National Service Board	292.27
Postage, telegraph, printing, etc.	571.41
Cash on hand	2,679.89

LaGuardia Attacks Profits of Loan Companies

(Continued from Page 3)

sharks by organizing consumer credit unions which lend small sums to members for productive purposes at reasonable rates of interest, usually 6 percent. First Christian Church, Frankfort, Indiana, and First Christian Church, Coffeyville, Kansas, and the employes of the boards having offices in Missions Building, Indianapolis, Indiana, are among Disciple groups having credit unions.

Available Materials on the Alcoholic Problem

The following materials will be found valuable for church groups in the field of alcohol education. Items starred (*) can be obtained from The United Christian Missionary Society, 222 S. Downey Ave., Indianapolis 7, Indiana.

**How Much do You Know About Alcohol?*, by Thomas R. Carskadon. 30 pp. and cover. 5c. Scientific facts about alcohol in the form of simple questions and answers. Highly recommended.

**Abridged Lectures of Yale School of Alcohol Studies* (1943), Summary of lectures by prominent scientists. 109 pp. 50c. Ought to be in every church library.

Alcohol, Its Effects on Man, by Haven Emerson, M.D. Published by D. Appleton-Century Co. \$1. A summary of the larger work, *Alcohol and Man*, especially adapted for teachers. One of the best books in the field.

Alcohol, Science and Society, twenty-nine lectures with discussions given at the 1945 session of the Yale School of Alcohol Studies. Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol, 4 Hillhouse Ave., New Haven, Conn. \$5.

Alcoholics Anonymous, the recognized textbook of the Movement. Works Publishing Co., N. Y. \$3.50.

**John Barleycorn, Esq.* A Chicago layman and businessman's address before his club on the drink problem. 32 pages, 2 for 25c.

**Alcoholic Problems Dissected*, March, 1945, Social Action magazine. A report on the Summer School of Alcohol Studies at Yale University, by E. M. Jellinek, 15c.

Lay Supplement Series, Quarterly Journal of Alcohol Studies, 4 Hillhouse Ave., New Haven, Conn. 10c each; complete set \$1.

Titles:

1. The Problems of Alcohol.
2. The Nature of Alcoholic Beverages and the Extent of Their Use.
3. Alcohol and Industrial Efficiency.
4. Facts on Delirium Tremens.
5. Alcohol, Heredity and Germ Damage.
6. Alcohol and Length of Life.
7. What Happens to Alcohol in the Body.
8. Alcoholic Beverages as a Food and their Relation to Nutrition.
9. Facts on Cirrhosis of the Liver.
10. The Drinker and the Drunkard.
11. How Alcoholic Beverages Affect Psychological Behavior.
12. The Rehabilitation of Inebriates.

Quarterly Journal of Alcohol Studies, 4 Hillhouse Ave., New Haven, Conn. \$3 per year. Contains the latest available information regarding the scientific aspects of alcohol.

World Order Sunday, November 11

The ending of the war and the dawn of the era of atomic energy makes it imperative that Christian people everywhere give increasing attention to the problems involved in bringing the world into some semblance of an organized community. The United Nations is beginning to get under way. The need for knowledge about it and its purposes and possibilities is urgent. The department of Social Welfare and the Commission on World Order will send to every pastor a packet of materials which can be used in preparing for observances of the day. Requests for further information and for materials should be addressed to the Department of Social Welfare, 222 S. Downey Ave., Indianapolis 7, Indiana.